## Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/984,325 filed December 3, 1997, whose contents are expressly incorporated herein by reference. The present invention relates to a channel control method and apparatus, and particularly, though not exclusively, to a method and apparatus for implementing a radio frequency message or paging system. --